DESCRIPTION

OPTICAL DISK AND OPTICAL DISK DEVICE

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TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates to an optical disk that allows information to be recorded and/or reproduced using an optical means and an optical disk device that can record information on and/or reproduce recorded information from the optical disk.

BACKGROUND ART

In the current age of information, high-density and large-capacity memories have been developed with growing enthusiasm. Memories are required to have not only the capability of high-density, large-capacity and highly reliable storage, but also the capability of rewriting or the like. It is an optical disk that is known to satisfy these requirements.

Conventionally, in relation to an optical disk and an optical disk device for performing recording and reproduction with respect to the optical disk, for example, a CD, a MD, and a DVD have been commercialized, and many reports on relevant technologies have been made. Particularly, as an optical disk system including a magnetic field modulation type magneto-optical disk and a read-only disk that allows reproduction to be performed so that compatibility with the magnetic field modulation type magneto-optical disk is attained, a minidisk (a MD) and a driving device used for the minidisk have created a market.

Hereinafter, conventional minidisks (MDs) and a conventional driving device used for the minidisks will be described with reference to the appended drawings.

FIGs. 3A and 3B are cross sectional views schematically showing the configurations of optical disks in the form of a MD and an optical head and a magnetic head in an optical disk device for performing recording and reproduction with respect to the MDs. The following description is directed to the configurations and operations of the MDs, the optical head, and the magnetic head.

In FIG. 3A, reference characters 61 and 71 denote a recordable minidisk (hereinafter, referred to as a MD-RAM) and an optical disk cartridge housing the MD-RAM 61, respectively. In FIG. 3B, reference